

**RESPONSE**

Sir:

1. This paper is responsive to the Formalities Letter mailed on January 30, 2002 (OC000000007390278).

2. Included herewith are:

Return Copy of Formalities Letter dated January 30, 2002;

✓ Resubmitted Drawings;

True Copy of Receipt Postcard;

True Copy of Express Mailing Label; and

True Copy of Cover Letter.

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3. The referenced formalities letter indicates that Applicant failed to submit Figures 5 through 17 for the subject application. Applicant respectfully disagrees and avers that Figures 5 through 17 were actually submitted together with the application.

It is the customary business practice of Applicant's counsel to prepare patent applications and drawings through a regular procedure. This regular procedure comprises generation of "submission print files". With respect to drawing sheets, all figures are prepared electronically and collected into a single submission print file that is separate and distinct from the submission print file prepared for the specification. Upon preparation of an application for submission, the submission print files are used to generate paper copies of the specification and drawing set. Hence, when either the specification or the drawing set is printed, the electronic submission print file may be relied upon to faithfully reprint either the specification or the drawing set.

In the instant case, the submission print file for the drawing set comprises eight (8) sheets formatted to print to A4 sized paper. Once printed, the 8 drawing sheets were set aside for final inventory prior to being placed in an envelope.

4. Applicant avers that all 8 sheets of the drawing set, including Figures 5 through 17, were deposited into the envelope together with the application. It is the customary business practice of Applicant's counsel to prepare a return postcard that specifically enumerates the contents of any envelope used to submit material to the Patent and Trademark Office. Such postcard, which is addressed to Applicant's counsel and carries sufficient first class postage, is then included within the envelope.

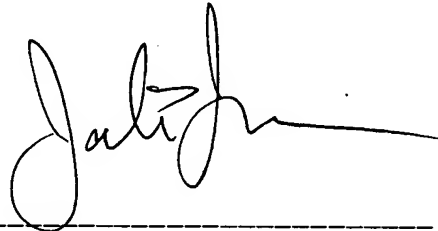
Applicant's counsel relies on this same postcard as an inventory check. Items listed on the postcard are placed into the envelope ensuring that all items are accounted for in the envelope that carries the application specification, drawings sheets and sundry items.

5. Applicant avers that the United States Patent Office not only received all eight drawing sheets pertaining to the subject case, but also actually acknowledged the receipt of these drawings sheets. This is evidenced by a true copy of a filing postcard submitted in accordance with MPEP § 503, received by the applicant after having been date-stamped by the Patent and Trademark Office and now attached hereto. Applicant avers that Figures 5 through 17 appeared on sheets 3 through 8 of those eight sheets acknowledged by the Patent and Trademark Office.
6. Applicant claims the original filing date for the entire application including the specification and all figures including Figures 5 through 17 at issue here. Applicant makes this claim based on Applicant's original submittal of said specification and 8 drawing sheets in accordance with "Express Mail"

procedures established in 37 CFR 1.10 and in accordance with MPEP § 513.  
A true copy of the Express Mailing Label is attached hereto.

7. Although such a certificate is no longer required, Applicant avers that all material submitted was submitted under a Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail. Said certificate appears on a cover letter originally submitted to introduce the application. A true copy of the cover letter is attached hereto.
8. Applicant is re-submitting Figures 5 through 17 herewith.
9. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully urges the Commissioner to find that Figures 5 through 17 as submitted herewith should be afforded the original filing date of November 2, 2002.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Jack I. J'maev  
Reg. No. 45,669

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